

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

CD NO. 25X1A

SUBJECT Personnel and Installations at Kbely Airfield

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1. The personnel in command of the garrison at the Kbely airfield consisted of the following:
 - a. Commanding Officer: Col. Sklenar, who was about 50 years old and an ardent Communist; he was transferred to Kbely from Ceske Budejovice in July 1949 as a replacement for Col. Sedlak. The latter was 55 years of age and was undergoing medical treatment, and it was likely that he was released from active military duty because of his illness. He was not a Communist in principle, and several times he indirectly warned soldiers of the imminence of arrest, although these arrests did not take place.
 - b. Executive Officer: Lt. Col. Jokl, who was approximately 50 years old. He was believed to be a member of the OZ and acted as such during the arrest of a Major Fleskal. After the dismissal of Lt. Col. Vrana, the reorganizer of the Operations Office, Jokl acted as chief of this office.
 - c. Deputy Executive Officer: Major Fric, approximately 37 years old. He was not a member of the Communist Party up to the summer of 1949 and was said to have been a National Socialist. He always acted as a strict soldier and never made any political distinctions. During political discussions with the Political Education Officer, Fric often disagreed with him.
 - d. Assistant to Barracks Commander: Major Korcak, about 37 years of age. He was not a member of the Communist Party and was believed to have been a National Socialist.
 - e. DOZ: Major Ausprung, about 40 years old and a former Social Democrat. He was a reliable Communist worker who had taken all the training required of OZ officers.
 - f. Political Education Officer: Staff Capt. Triska, approximately 35 years old. A former country teacher, he was an ardent, active, and opportunistic Communist and a member of the OZ. He was a heavy drinker.

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- c. Deputy Political Education Officer: Capt. Horowitz, about 55 years old. He was a Communist in principle and also for gain; he was a member of the National Socialist Party during the First Republic. It is alleged that he acted as an intelligence agent during a tour of a football team in Turkey in 1948, when he was able to obtain information on American military equipment.
- d. Second Deputy Political Education Officer: 1st Lt. Kosarek, about 37 years old and an ardent Communist.
- e. Commanding Officer of Air Force Transport Regiment: Staff Capt. Vrecl, approximately 57 years of age, a real soldier and a military expert. In 1949, after a Dakota piloted by a Sgt. Skvara escaped with a crew of discharged officers, Vrecl initiated a purge of air force non-commissioned officers, and shortly thereafter he was appointed commanding officer of the air base at Ostromec. He was then replaced by Col. Liska.
- f. Commanding Officer of the Signal Squadron: Staff Capt. Firniel who was not trusted by the Communists.
- g. Commanding Officer of the Atlantic Regiment: Believed to be Major Jephoda.
- h. Commanding Officer of Weather Service School: Staff Capt. Cejka, about 35 years old. He was a former Social Democrat, not trusted by non-Communists.
- i. Commanding Officer of Weather Bureau: Staff Capt. Zitek, about 35 years old. He was a former member of the National Socialist Party, an ardent Sokol member and a patriot.
- j. Commanding Officer of Auxiliary Squadron: Major Koreak, who also commanded the Technical Squadron and was Assistant to the Barracks Commander.
2. The personnel in command of the air force depot were:
- a. Commanding Officer: Col. Heracek, approximately 57 years of age. He was not a Communist and was not liked by the Communists.
- b. Deputy Commanding Officer: Capt. Sak, about 55 years old and an ardent Communist.
- c. Quartermaster (hospodar): Major Vokoun, about 58 years old, a non-Communist, and not liked by the Communists.
- d. DOZ: Capt. Tatar, 40 years old, a former opportunistic member of the National Socialist Party.
- e. Commanding Officer of Sections I, II, and III: Capt. Valicova, a Communist through intimidation.
- f. Commanding Officer of Section IV: Sgt. Kalat, who was pro-West.
- g. Commanding Officer of Sections V and VI: 2nd Lt. Vana, a Communist.
- h. Commanding Officer of Building 3, Storehouse: 2nd Lt. Nanzalek, a Communist.
- i. Commanding Officer of Liquidation Section (zrujevací oddelení): Capt. Link, approximately 50 years old and a member of the Communist Party. He is not trusted by the Communists.
- j. Commanding Officer of Transportation Platoons: Capt. Cjem, a Communist but not trusted by the Communists.
3. No training of troops was given at Kbely except at the Weather Service School.
4. The Kbely airfield was about 1,300 m long and 200 m wide. Two newly-built runways were about 1,000 m long and 50 m wide and were 100 m distant from each other; they ran parallel to the road from north to south and were about 600 m from the road.

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5. The planes were not moved to the hangars at night but they remained on the airfield, the fast and light aircraft facing north in the direction of Kbely and the heavy aircraft facing south in the direction of Prague. Approximately the following numbers of aircraft were based at the field:

20 Dakotas	4 Lavoockas
16 Junkers	6 Arables
13 P II (Soviet)	3 Hansons
12 Mosquitos	15 Rebels
15 Messerschmitts	15 Pipers
10 Spitfires	30 Bückers
4 Cobolds	

Attachments: Sketch showing installations at Kbely airfield, with legend.

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